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(Original Signature of Member)

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 10, United States Code, to expand the State licensure exception for certain health care professionals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to expand the State licensure exception for certain health care professionals, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Servicemembers Tele-
5 medicine and E-Health Portability Act of 2011” or the
6 “STEP Act of 2011”.

7 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary
2 of Veterans Affairs need to renew and improve ef-
3 forts to reach out to rural America, which has less
4 access to care;

5 (2) behavioral health services for active duty
6 members of the Armed Forces, members of the re-
7 serve components, members of the National Guard,
8 and veterans need to be more easily and readily ac-
9 cessible; and

10 (3) medical records and records of deployment
11 need a “warm transition” and better collaboration
12 between the Department of Defense and the Depart-
13 ment of Veterans Affairs.

14 **SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF STATE LICENSURE EXCEPTION FOR**
15 **CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1094(d) of title 10,
17 United States Code, is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (1)—

19 (A) by inserting “at any location” before
20 “in any State”; and

21 (B) by striking “regardless” and all that
22 follows through the end and inserting “regard-
23 less of where such health-care professional or
24 the patient are located, so long as the practice

1 is within the scope of the authorized Federal
2 duties.”; and

3 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “member of
4 the armed forces” and inserting “member of the
5 armed forces, civilian employee of the Department of
6 Defense, personal services contractor under section
7 1091 of this title, or other health-care professional
8 credentialed and privileged at a Federal health care
9 institution or location specially designated by the
10 Secretary for this purpose”.

11 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
12 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense,
13 in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
14 shall submit to Congress a report on the plans to develop
15 and expand programs to use new Internet and communica-
16 tion technologies for improved access to care and re-
17 sources, including telemedicine, telehealth care services,
18 and telebehavioral health programs that ensure patient
19 privacy.

20 (c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall
21 prescribe regulations to carry out the amendments made
22 by this Act.